

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)
Meeting Minutes – Thursday October 1, 2015 9:45 am to noon
Hosted at Our Daily Bread Employment Center 725 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

Meeting commenced at 10:00 am

I. Opening – Review of last meeting minutes and any comments.

- a. One area was Section III, d to be modified to include, “local DSS offices can assist with Medicaid application approvals”.
- b. Invitation to comments solicited, once completed then approvals will be provided.

II. Medicaid Re-enrollments

- a. Strategies/tactics were discussed with regards to outpostting staff and utilizing/connecting with staff on site at the DSS level. Text messages reminding individuals of re-determinations or door hangers for high-risk individuals were discussed as various solutions.
- b. “No Wrong Door” Policy - Regardless of where the individual experiencing hardship is in the process, a worker should be able to assist. Challenges exist that individuals are turned away or referred to the branch office where they initially filed.
- c. Some issues cannot be remedied at the DSS levels, but a continued effort will be made for DSS to continue to work through issues. A solution was provided that reinforcement training or web based training to staff are to be conducted on an ongoing basis on how to handle cases.

III. Health Care Reform

- a. There is a need to create a record in the eligibility system, in addition to forego re-determinations for Medicaid recipients every 12 months. The system will automatically process re-determinations annually, which is a huge benefit to customers. About 50% go through without any issues. The remainder population experience issues due to inadequate background information causing errors to occur in the case record and thus, not be pushed into automatic re-determination status
- b. MHBE has pushed out a customer level tutorial to assist in filling out an application on YouTube and will be going out to community partners who work with MHBE customers. It is a self-paced “how to” video.

IV. Joint Legislative Committee meeting held on 9/8/16

- a. One common condition: individuals are poor and simply cannot afford housing.
- b. Service dollars are similar across agencies, but not making the most impact. Looking to consolidate, legislative action will be required. Next meeting is Nov. 4, 2015.

V. Framework Discussion (approvals included and plan to be used for next quarter (working document))

- a. Components of Maryland’s *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* have been included in the framework.
- b. Discussion of vision and 6 goals.

VI. Goal 1 – Create more supportive housing options

Goal of Housing First workgroup: Find existing resources -where are they going and are they going towards a proven solution to homelessness as far as permanent supportive housing. Inquire if Housing First programs are available and if they are fulfilling the “Housing First” definition. Additionally, identify resources to propel providers towards what Housing First means; as well as what it takes to make it happen. Find out how we qualify for the resources towards permanent solutions. Heather shared a catalogue of resources that define permanent supportive housing. --- No Questions.

- a. Comments: The workgroup comes together at a great time due to HUD funding rules indicating that to receive max points for applications for CoC funds, 75% of total grantees should agree to pursue Housing First. There will be a discussion held during an upcoming ICH meeting, regarding further explanations on Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Goal 2 – Increase emergency shelter options

Emergency safety will sustain and need to exist and continue to support those in emergency situations and to address situations such as cold weather sheltering. This workgroup is looking to develop recommendations on guides and strategies to improve rapid re-housing (RRH). RRH is a model that is reached to address those who come out of emergency shelter housing via working with a housing locator or case manager to obtain future housing in rental units or landlords. Wrap around services are also a part of RRH and addresses low barrier access. The ICH is looking to identify how to increase RRH throughout the state.

- a. A cold weather sheltering meeting was held on Sept. 25, 2015 with Baltimore City and surrounding counties. Overall it was a successful gathering that allowed jurisdictions to discuss their cold weather plans and points for better coordination. Jurisdictions asked for the ICH to issue statewide expectations for cold weather planning.

Goal 3 – Increasing Health access to those experiencing homelessness

This workgroup is working on concepts to standardize questions as well as identifying costs for outreach initiatives. Hospital waivers and global healthcare utilizing universal identifiers are key factors addressed. Some providers have already begun to utilize advanced systems similar to the hospital environment. --- No Questions.

Goal 4 – Veterans Homelessness

There is a federal requirement to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. 4 objectives are identified by the workgroup:

- a. Identify recommendations to improve access to housing for veterans: (need to be aligned to the USVA because veteran needs are different from general population) and explore how to better communicate between USVA and the CoC in a more formal way outside of just knowing someone.
- b. Identify avenues for employment for veterans: One solution is a disabled veteran outreach program-one stop career center and an efficient screening process. Recommend a specialist to align with a correctional institution preparing for re-entry, and knowing who the POC is.
- c. Expand Communications: Shared messaging campaign. Send the message to a community provider that is not specifically veteran targeted. Create online directories.
- d. Work collaboratively with stakeholders: Recommends a survey be distributed to CoCs to assess veteran needs and challenges. Recommend developing a contact list in a collaborative network.

Rebecca Sheetz, the VA point of contact, provided background and support of the work of the Veterans work group. --- No Questions.

Goal 5 – Youth and young adult homelessness

Three objectives were identified by the workgroup:

- a. Assess service gaps: Recommends establishing a catalogue of programs/initiatives for the advocates and state agencies. First draft is completed but still being revised to include additional providers.
- b. Work with representatives and stakeholders to explore how the network can be enhanced or built to create more outreach.
- c. Assess current housing options to the populations. Assess services and provide the best age appropriate support that is not necessarily gauged towards adults, but geared towards young adult development.

Next workgroup meeting is on October 14, 2015. --- No Questions

Goal 6 – Coordinated access

Federal goal establishes that a person experiencing homelessness can move through the placement process as quickly and efficiently as possible. Cold weather sheltering provides for a lack for coordination. Challenges discussed are that systems and providers are not talking to one another, and thus seeking a centralized data warehouse is ideal. Objectives of the workgroup are:

- a. Assess current progress of local jurisdictional work for coordination (access and entry), so that best practices can be provided. A solution included pairing CoCs with other jurisdictions etc.
- b. ICH will provide a guide as a tool to various CoCs.

Q&A from Audience

Question: Landlord/Developer inquired about bureaucracy and how they can find out about lending support to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Responses were provided about how landlords can seek information via the Multi-Family Housing Association partnered with the United Way.

ICH Members in attendance:

<i>Dana Hendrickson</i>	<i>Sandy Monk</i>	<i>Patricia Flanigan</i>	<i>Holly Turner</i>
<i>Jeffrey Kendrick</i>	<i>Kevin Lindamood</i>	<i>Martha Roach</i>	<i>Shane Spencer</i>
<i>Tricia Roddy</i>	<i>Byron Tosi</i>	<i>Carol Gilbert</i>	<i>Leslie Dews</i>
<i>Courtney Thomas</i>	<i>Elizabeth Kinney</i>	<i>Kim Ball</i>	<i>Jaclin Warner- Wiggins</i>

ICH Members not in Attendance:

<i>Tony Simmons</i>	<i>Leslie Dews</i>	<i>Shannon Frey</i>
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Members that sent representatives: *Penelope Thornton Talley, Patricia Arriaza, Vidia Dhanraj*